

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An edible toy for an animal, comprising:  
a shell shaped to facilitate oral interaction with the animal; and  
an edible material included with the shell that is accessible by the animal  
over an extended period of time, wherein the toy is consumable in its entirety.
2. The toy of claim 1, the edible material comprises at least one of an  
inducement, a nutrient, and a treatment.
3. The toy of claim 1, at least one of the shape and the edible material  
facilitates stimulation of a cat to interact therewith.
4. The toy of claim 3, the edible material includes catnip, and the shape  
facilitates prolonged motion of the toy when the toy is set in motion.
5. The toy of claim 1, the edible material can be accessed by at least one of  
the animal biting the shell and clawing the shell.
6. The toy of claim 1, the shell surrounds multiple layers of a plurality of  
different edible materials.
7. The toy of claim 6, the multiple layers are formed concentrically about a  
core material.
8. The toy of claim 1, the shell includes at least one of an edible nodule and a  
string affixed thereto.

9. The toy of claim 1, the shell is compressed to a compression parameter for a particular animal such that a lower compression parameter facilitates easier access to the edible material and a higher compression parameter facilitates more difficult access to the edible material.

10. An edible toy for a cat, comprising:  
a shell shaped to facilitate oral interaction with the cat; and  
an edible material included with the shell that is accessible by the cat over an extended period of time, wherein the toy is consumable in its entirety.

11. The toy of claim 10, the shell is formed of two mating pieces that are bonded together about the edible material.

12. The toy of claim 10, the edible material moves freely within the shell.

13. The toy of claim 12, the edible material comprises at least one of a liquid, a gel, a paste, and one or more edible objects that move freely within the shell.

14. The toy of claim 10, the edible material comprises a combination of different edible components.

15. The toy of claim 10, the shell is a non-edible material having one or more holes that slowly releases edible material therethrough from inside the shell.

16. The toy of claim 10, the shell is flexible such that distortion thereof by the cat causes the edible material to be released.

17. The toy of claim 10, the shell is refillable with the edible material.

18. The toy of claim 10 comprises the shell and the edible material that together form a contiguous composition of a single edible material.

19. An edible toy for a cat, comprising:
  - a shell shaped to facilitate oral interaction with the cat, the shell is comprised of a material that maintains freshness of underlying material and that gradually wears away as the cat interacts orally therewith; and
  - an edible material that is the underlying material within the shell and accessible by the cat over an extended period of time, wherein the toy is consumable in its entirety.
20. The toy of claim 19, the shell is edible, and maintains freshness of the underlying edible material.
21. A method of providing an edible toy for an animal, comprising:
  - providing an edible material;
  - forming an shell that houses the edible material; and
  - inserting the edible material therein.
22. The method claim 21, the edible material includes an inducement that stimulates the animal, which is a cat, to interact therewith.
23. The method claim 22, further comprising compressing at least one of the shell and edible material to a compression parameter that allows the cat to access the edible material thereof via at least one of licking, biting, and clawing.
24. The method claim 21, further comprising mixing the edible material into a substantially homogeneous mixture of at least one of an inducement, a nutriment, and a treatment.
25. The method claim 21, further comprising mixing the edible material such that a mixture of edible components thereof exhibit a marbling effect.

26. The method claim 21, further comprising forming a hole in the shell such that the edible material can be replaced therethrough.

27. The method claim 21, the shell comprises the edible material.